



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, GA 31558



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

February through May 2008



First African Baptist Church and the Rischarde House (NPS Photo)

From the Acting Superintendent

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve the park staff, community, and island residents for the last four months as Acting Superintendent of Cumberland Island National Seashore. This seashore contains wonderful natural and cultural resources while surrounded by such passionate staff, loving and dynamic personalities. It is no wonder so many visitors are attracted to the park for relaxation, contemplation, education and exploration. Furthermore, it is no wonder why so many individuals have developed such deep emotions to the island and what it means to them individually. I must begin and end by saying thank you to all for your support, respect and cooperation.

The staff continues to work towards the development of a North Access and Transportation Management Plan as mandated. The Environmental Assessment should be complete for distribution and review within the month. This will be followed by a series of public meetings and open forums to assure that all interested individuals and groups participate in the future use and enjoyment of Cumberland Island.

Plum Orchard restoration continues. Phase II is nearing completion which includes: an improved ventilation system; fire suppression and alarm systems; upgrades on electrical and plumbing systems; addition of a new universally accessible restroom and interior and exterior lifts; interior floor restoration, painting, light fixture and wallpaper conservation; and exterior work on the piazza concrete, columns and handrails.

The Alberty House has been restored and conserved for use as a visitor contact station and interpretive facility for the High Point-Half Moon Bluff Historic District. Structural deficiencies have been corrected and non-functioning plumbing and electrical systems have been replaced. The building is unlocked and the restrooms are functioning. Please help us keep the restrooms as clean as possible. Please turn off all lights upon exiting the house.

Dungeness Ruins Stabilization is scheduled for completion in early summer. The addition of steel supports, wood lintel replacement, as well as removal of vegetation, will assist to ensure this story is preserved for future generations.

I truly enjoyed my final weekend at Cumberland Island National Seashore welcoming the Stafford Family on their return visit and reunion, May 3, 2008. The family arrived on the island about 10:00 AM, and began by gathering at the YCC Kitchen for a welcome and presentation of the opportunities for enjoying their visit. The remainder of the day was spent touring the island, Plum Orchard and visiting the High Point-Half Moon Bluff Historic District.

I will pass the baton to a friend who is experienced, talented, and passionate in his desire to fulfill the mission of the National Park Service. Superintendent Tim Stone, Cowpens National Battlefield and Ninety Six National Historic Site, South Carolina, will report as the Acting Superintendent of Cumberland Island National Seashore on May 12, 2008. Superintendent Stone brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in park management over a 32 year career ranging from two tours of duty in Alaska, several national parks in California, the National Fee Program Manager in the National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in Washington DC, and numerous other NPS sites throughout the country. Please join me in welcoming Superintendent Stone. I am confident he will continue to care for the island resources, advance visitor services, and be diligent in respecting all interests in furthering the mission of the National Park Service.



Steven A. McCoy

-Steven McCoy
Acting Superintendent

New Acting Superintendent

Tim Stone graduated from the U. of Washington with a B.S. degree in Forestry Management and Outdoor Recreation in 1976. Mr. Stone started working in wildland management during the summers in 1973 as a member of a 20 man wildfire suppression crew on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. His first position with the National Park Service (NPS) was in 1976 on a helitack wildfire suppression crew in Yellowstone National Park. He was a backcountry ranger in Yellowstone for five seasons in a remote area of the park. He was one of the first rangers in newly established Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in 1982-83, a 9,000,000 acre roadless wilderness area north of the Arctic Divide where he helped establish the first ranger stations and conducted some of the initial patrols of the park. Mr. Stone also worked at Biscayne National Park as head of a forestry crew. Mr. Stone's first permanent postion with the NPS was at Ft. Necessity National Battlefield, Pa. in 1984 as a field ranger. He has also held postions at Golden Gate National Recreation Area as a resource management ranger; chief ranger at Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska; the National Fee Program manager for the NPS in the Washington Office; management assistant at Death Valley National Park; the first full time manager for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a 2,650 mile trail that runs from the Mexican to Canadian border along the highest peaks of California, Oregon and Washington. Mr. Stone came to Cumberland Island from Cowpens National Battlefield and Ninety Six National Historic Site, South Carolina where he is park superintendent.



Tim Stone



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
101 Wheeler Street
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
www.nps.gov/cuis
cuis_superintendent@nps.gov

Park Visitor Center:
(912) 882-4336 ext.254
1-877-860-6787 (Reservations)

Park Headquarters:
(912) 882-4336

Editor In Chief:
Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Editorial Consultant:
Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Night Beach Driving Regulations Go Into Effect



A reminder to all park staff and island residents that per the Georgia Shoreline Protection Act, driving on the beach at night is prohibited from May 1st to October 31st each year. Specifically stated: "Beach driving during the period May 1 to October 31 shall be restricted to daylight hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset),..."



I.T. Training

I want to first start off by thanking everyone who has completed their IT Security Awareness and NPS Responsibilities for Computer Use. Your compliance is greatly appreciated. For those who have not, if you do not complete the trainings by the end all due date of June 30th, your computer privileges will be revoked. Please ensure that you comply before the allotted due date. It could take a while to regain access to the network if your account is revoked.

Server Clean Up

You may remember an email that I sent out a while ago explaining the need to clean up the data on our server because of a cluttering on the tape back up had begun. Since sending that email, I have only seen a select few make an attempt at doing this. Because a collection of irrelevant files can occur very easily over time from a lack of "house cleaning", I ask again that each one of you take time to go through your files (located in either your "H" drive or on the network "I" drive) and delete any files that are no longer needed. I thank you for your immediate attention to this task.

Obtaining Permission

This goes out as a general reminder to all park staff: Before attempting to download any software on or connect any peripherals to any park computer, you must 1. obtain permission to have such software/peripherals and 2. have a network administrator install them for you. If you attempt to install any software/peripherals without taking the proper steps, disciplinary action may occur.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Support Assistant

Quote Corner

"In war as in life, it is often necessary when some cherished scheme has failed, to take up the best alternative open, and if so, it is folly not to work for it with all your might."

-Winston Churchill

Upcoming TELNPS Courses:

For the full schedule, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/training/tel/schedule.htm>

May 22nd
"INT Conducted Activities TEL - Walks and Tours"
12:00 - 4:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-INT2210
Last Day to Register: May 20th
This TEL broadcast provides an opportunity to analyze examples of effective guided walks and tours and consider the power of resource immersion experiences for park visitors. This session will explore a variety of techniques and strategies for engaging visitors with park resources and their meanings. Participants will also consider the communication and group dynamics skills necessary to facilitate guided activities. Familiarity with the foundational principles of the Interpretive Development Program (Foundations of Interpretation) is a recommended prerequisite. This program will be closed captioned.

June 26th
"Retirement Training for New Employees"
1:00 - 3:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-UNC6300
Last Day to Register: June 25th
This training is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement. An expert in Federal benefits and a financial planner are the presenters. Discussion includes the importance of planning for retirement from the beginning of a career, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) options, and pitfalls to avoid when investing for retirement. This program will be closed captioned.

July 16th
"Heritage Education at Risk: Why We Must Engage Our Formal Education Systems"
1:00 - 2:00 pm ET
Course Code: NPS-CRS6001
Last Day to Register: July 14th
National parks have the ability to help heritage education reach new heights, and NPS interpreters are the key to that solution. Learn why engaging local schools and monitoring national education trends will increase your ability to bring students to your cultural resource, while broadening the educational opportunities for young learners. This course will address the three most critical issues to develop - relationships with local teachers, adherence to state standards and monitoring of national trends.

July 24th
"Avoiding the Looming Black Hole: Managing Electronic Records for Now and For the Future"
1:00 - 4:00 pm ET
Course Code: NPS-ADM6640
Last Day to Register: July 22nd
Many employees of the NPS are unfamiliar with records management, particularly electronic records management. This TEL broadcast will focus on understanding the basic principles of managing electronic records.



Administration

Our park received the Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget and we are busy with contracts and getting the project funding obligated. The Division Chiefs have submitted lists for the remainder of the fiscal year and Budget Technician **Gary Head** is keeping a watchful eye on spending. We are concentrating on approving as many expenditures as possible in order for our park to have a balanced budget on September 30, 2008. All commitments must be approved by Gary and receive his signature prior to purchase.

The Summer of 2008 YCC [Youth Conservation Corps] program will begin on May 27. We are happy to announce that **Mark Feine** will be returning as the Project Leader and he will be assisted by Visitor Use Assistant **Pauline Wentworth** again this summer. The Division Chiefs have submitted projects for the six students to work on during the eight week program.

Sadly, we said good-bye to Acting Superintendent **Steve McCoy** the first week in May. We are very appreciative of the good work Steve has done here and we are now poised to welcome Acting Superintendent **Tim Stone** on May 12.

Thank you to **Laurie Chestnut** from the Contracting Office in the Southeast Region for coming down to give us a hand with our contracts. She gave us some much needed assistance while she was here and will continue to support our projects from her office in the Southeast Region.

The mid-year project reviews were completed by April 30, 2008, and are in place for the overall summary ratings after September 30, 2008.

Until next time...
julie



Swamp Field Fire

Acting Superintendent Tim Stone reported that there was a 197-acre fire on Cumberland Island National Seashore located southeast of Plum Orchard Mansion, within the Park's designated wilderness area. The fire was initially discovered on Monday evening, May 12 by a pilot flying onto the island. It was believed to have started as a result of lightning that occurred the previous night. The fire is bordered on the north by White Branch Creek, on the south by Willow Pond Trail and to the west by Grande Avenue, the main park road. The fire has been named the "Swamp Field Fire" from the location of the initial strike. This was the first lightning fire of the season in Camden County.

First on the scene Monday night was the Cumberland Island National Seashore Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons. Following his assessment, resources from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Georgia Forestry Commission, Camden County Fire Department, Kingsland Fire Department, and St. Marys Fire Department arrived on scene by Tuesday morning. A fire suppression crew from PatRick Environmental, Inc. arrived Wednesday evening to take over for the local initial attack crew.



Firefighter walks along a fire bordered by "Grand Avenue"

The fire burned in grass, shrub, and hardwood wetland areas, as well as mixed oak-pine-palmetto forest. Several water drops were made by helicopter on the swamp grasses on Tuesday afternoon to check hot spots in that difficult terrain. The Swamp Field was declared "controlled" on May 17th. Periodic fires have most likely had a role in the development of the island's vegetation. Park staff will continue to monitor the long term effects of this "natural" fire occurrence.

-Julie Meeks
Administrative Officer

The Cumberland Island Conservancy, Inc. Makes A Generous Donation

"The Cumberland Island Conservancy is a proud supporter of the educational activities of Cumberland Island National Seashore," said Thornton W. Morris, President of the Conservancy.



Acting Superintendent Steven McCoy accepts a donation from the Cumberland Island Conservancy, Inc., presented by its President: Thornton W. Morris

The Cumberland Island Conservancy made a monetary donation on Monday, March 17th, to the National Park Service for its purchase of high tech equipment for use as a part of its educational programs for the visitors of the Island.

The mission of The Cumberland Island Conservancy, Inc., is:

- To support educational and scientific research and information on Cumberland Island, Georgia.
- To provide monetary and physical support for the preservation of Cumberland Island, and to work with the National Park Service as co-stewards in preserving this great natural, cultural and historical resource.
- To aid in the dissemination of educational and scientific information regarding Cumberland Island to the National Park Service, the public at large, and the residents of Cumberland Island.

The Conservancy supports the National Park Service in its efforts to help the visitors to Cumberland Island maximize their experience. The Conservancy is interested in preserving the historical, cultural, and natural environment of the Island while helping the Park Service share its uniqueness with the American public.

The Conservancy supports a rational policy for the visitation of Cumberland Island, balancing its desire for Cumberland to touch people while preserving its uniqueness. A part of the mission of the Conservancy is to act as a forum for truthful, rational and non-politically motivated statements regarding Cumberland Island. The Conservancy believes that Cumberland Island should be a place of peace. It should be a place of harmony. It should not be a place for partisan political conflict. The Conservancy desires to highlight Cumberland Island as a place of spiritual awareness, emotional growth, and intellectual stimulation.

Morris stated that he hoped that "...this working together of the public and private sectors can be an example for other people and organizations to aid the National Park Service in a constructive and balanced way."

- Steven McCoy
Acting Superintendent

Plane Wreckage Washes Up

Over the weekend of May 3rd a small plane went down about 3 miles off the coast of Jekyll Island. Sadly, the pilot perished in the crash. The remains of the aircraft washed up on Cumberland Island and were discovered on May 8th during routine sea turtle patrol activities. After notification of the finding, ranger Eric Ulitalo coordinated prompt removal of the wreckage with the FAA and the family of the deceased pilot.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist



Plane Wreckage

Naval Submarine Base Conducts Weapons Accident Exercise

On April 2nd, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay conducted an exercise simulating a nuclear weapon incident. The primary goal of the exercise was to validate and improve the integration of the base emergency response with state and local response agencies. Initial notification, procedures, command and control, and the interaction between the local governments and the base were demonstrated successfully.

The Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic sponsored the multi-agency response exercise and participants included local and state emergency response organizations from Georgia and Florida. Camden, Nassau and Duval County emergency management

agencies, Cumberland Island National Seashore as well as various agencies from the states of Georgia and Florida participated.

The Darling Jewel 2008 exercise included a park notification of a simulated radiation release, potential for the presence of a radiological contamination and for mass casualties or evacuation. The exercise's simulated impact on Cumberland Island National Seashore included private boaters on the southern tip of the island, ferry passengers, employees and island residents. Simulated ICC and POC were established at park headquarters/ Bachlott House and decontamination facilities and health services officials were staged at the park's visitor center. Visitor accommodations and services continued throughout the exercise with park staff circulating among visitors to discuss the exercise and alleviate any concern or alarm.

-Steven McCoy
Acting Superintendent



St. Marys Fire and Police officers pass the decontamination tent that was setup as part of the exercise.

Please Welcome the First Turtle Tech of the Season!



Casey Augeri

With the onset of the 2008 sea turtle nesting season comes the anticipation of the arrival of Cumberland's turtle techs. Our first "turtle girl" arrived on May 9th, just in time to welcome the year's second nesting turtle on May 10th. Casey Augeri, from West Palm Beach, Florida, will be working on the sea turtle nest monitoring program through early August.

A second technician will arrive soon to assist Casey with the daily turtle patrols on the beach. Casey is finishing up her degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Florida. She is interested in gaining experience in the field of resource management and conservation biology, and helping educate children in environmental conservation. No doubt she will get plenty of experience towards these goals during her stay on Cumberland. Please welcome Casey to the island when you see her.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Thanks!

Laurie Chestnut, an employee of the Contracting Office at the Southeast Regional Office was nice enough to come to Cumberland Island National Seashore to assist us with some of our contracts. Laurie has worked 23 years for the Federal Government, first at Social Security, the the Department of Education, General Services Adminstration and now the National Park Service. She is happy with the Park Service and resides in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Thank you so much, Laurie, for your hard work and dedication!

-Julie Meeks
Administrative Officer



Administrative Officer Julie Meeks and Laurie Chestnut working on CUIS contracts

2008 Hurricanes

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| Arthur | Laura |
| Bertha | March |
| Cristobal | Nana |
| Dolly | Omar |
| Eduoard | Paloma |
| Fay | Rene |
| Gustav | Sally |
| Hanna | Teddy |
| Ike | Vicky |
| Josephine | Wilfred |
| Kyle | |

For every year, there are six pre-approved lists of names for tropical storms and hurricanes that are rotated. These lists have been generated by the National Hurricane Center since 1953. Initially, only female names were used but since 1979 the list alternates between male and female. There are no names included that begin with Q or U. The lists only change when there is a hurricane that is so devastating that the name is retired and another name replaces it.

-Julie Meeks
Administrative Officer

Stafford Family Reunion

On Saturday, May 3, 2008, the park hosted the Stafford Family Reunion on Cumberland Island. Ms. Pamela Stafford coordinated the event with park staff. The initial Stafford reunion was held in 2005, when about thirty Stafford family members visited Cumberland Island for the very first time. This year over sixty family members, as well as Rob Asbell, a representative from Congressman Jack Kingston's office, enjoyed a beautiful day on the island while reminiscing, touring Plum Orchard and visiting sites special to the family's heritage.

The day began at the YCC kitchen with introductions and snacks. A wonderful pound cake was brought by a Stafford family member and was enjoyed by all. The other refreshments were provided by Eastern National. The group then was transported to Plum Orchard for a tour by park interpreter, Rene Noe. Following the tour some families headed to the beach to enjoy the sand and surf, some toured the chimneys at Stafford [remains of an African American community] and some even traveled north to the First African Baptist Church. There was a special ceremony at the church and a baptism was conducted.

The family regrouped and departed the island at 4:00 p.m., invigorated after their exceptional reunion with not only each other but with the special connection to their heritage. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the park staff who all assisted in making this such a successful day for all of us!

-Steven McCoy
Acting Superintendent

Photo taken by: Ranger Eric Ullitalo



The Stafford family listens as Interpretive Ranger Rene Noe gives her program.

Kudos Korner



Park To Begin Road Work On Island

Cumberland Island National Seashore has received 2008 funding to perform cyclic maintenance on the Main Road and other key routes on the island. The Main Road, also known as Grand Avenue, is the primary artery on the island. Thirteen miles long, the road runs nearly the full length of the island from Dungeness in the south to Cumberland Wharf on the north end. As with all of the island's roads it is generally a single-lane, unpaved track with a sand and shell base that varies in width from eight to twelve feet. The Main Road has been the principal transportation link on Cumberland Island for over 175 years and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cyclic maintenance on the Main Road has not been conducted since 1998 and the park began requesting funds for the current project in 2005. Vehicle traffic, rainfall, wind, weathering, and general wear and tear over the single-lane, unpaved roads have caused the roadway to rut, settle, shift, and washboard. Such conditions have made the road difficult and uncomfortable to travel on for island visitors, residents, and park personnel. Washboard areas and ruts encountered at even low speeds (<25mph) have caused vehicles to lose traction and fishtail. Deep ruts have caused low-clearance vehicles to bottom out. In areas where conditions have become so poor the road is braided with multiple travel lanes as drivers avoid problem spots. Traveling the full length of the Main Road whether in a vehicle or on a bicycle can be a long, arduous, and painful trip. In addition, the current road conditions are extremely hard on vehicles and contribute to increased repairs and short vehicle life-spans.

Actions proposed under this current cyclic project include filling and leveling ruts, dips, potholes, and other depressions that have developed in the roadbed. Additionally, areas where tree roots have become exposed will be covered to smooth out the bed and protect the roots. Fill material will consist of dredged sand removed from the spoil island located at Raccoon Keys on the island's south end. This spoil material is largely coarse grain sand and has been dumped from dredging operations in the nearby Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, crushed oyster shell will be purchased to level and restore to grade the approaches to five bridges. Other work includes grading of road segments that are overcome by washboard effects. Grading will also be employed where possible to restore the level of the roadbed by pulling material back into the road that has shifted to the edges and developed low berms along the roadside. While the vast majority of the project will focus on the Main Road, as funds and time permit the park may also address Coleman Avenue, Plum Orchard Spur, High Point Road, North Cut Road, and the loops through the Dungeness and Plum Orchard Historic Districts.

The maintenance project is slated to begin later on in the spring and should be finished by the end of September. When completed the park anticipates having 19 miles of roadway in optimal condition.

“We apologize for any inconvenience this work may cause residents and visitors. We ask for your cooperation and please be mindful of the workers during this time. Thank you.”

-Tim Stone
Acting Superintendent



“Grande Avenue”

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

May Signals the Beginning of Another Turtle Season

Last year, Cumberland had the distinction of recording the first turtle nest of Georgia's 2007 season. And, if that was not enough, by the end of the season we also recorded the most nests of any Georgia barrier island for the year. Cumberland's 17 miles of beach consistently harbor the largest number of loggerhead sea turtle nests on the Georgia coast annually. There is no doubt the pristine quality of this island, mainly its lack of development and human disturbance, plays a major role in its attractiveness to nesting sea turtles. As predicted, the 2007 season was the low year in the 3-year nesting cycle. If all goes well, the next two years should produce good numbers ranging from 250 to over 300 nests on Cumberland.



"Turtle Patrol" will begin on the 3rd of May. The entire length of the beach will be covered daily throughout the 6-month season to look for signs of females emerging from the ocean to nest on Cumberland's dunes. Nests are monitored from the day they are deposited to the end of the hatching period. The first two turtle techs will arrive in early May to work the first half of the season. An additional two new technicians will arrive in August to finish out the remainder of the hatching season. Please welcome them to the island when you see them.

Bird Nesting Season: Beach Drivers Use Caution

We are at that time of year when numerous species of shorebirds use Cumberland for nesting and rearing chicks, including several species of concern such as Wilson's Plovers and American Oystercatchers. Both species will have chicks on the beach soon. The chicks start out literally the size of cotton balls and feed between the dunes and surf. Scientific studies have shown a direct correlation to the amount of beach driving/human activity and survival of shorebird

chicks. Please use extra caution when driving on the beach for the next several months to ensure the survival of these birds. The Resource Management Division posts nesting areas along the beach each year to prevent disturbance from pedestrians and vehicles. Please keep an eye out for the "birds nesting" signs and give the area a wide buffer as you travel by.



Boaters, Slow for Manatees!

Manatees will once again return to Cumberland as the May sun warms the waters of our western shores and tidal creeks. These "sea cows" are a common sight at Dungeness and Sea Camp docks through the summer months, departing southward as the waters cool in the fall. It is common to see up to seven manatees at one time basking around our docks during low tide. The most common cause of death and injury to this federally listed endangered species is boat strikes. Please use caution this summer when boating around the island docks and tidal creeks.



Manatee off the Dungeness Dock on Cumberland Island

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Maintenance Division

Alberty House Renovation Completed



Completed exterior of Alberty House

The Alberty House restoration project has been completed. An interior restroom facility is open for use and is *American Disabilities Act* accessible. Hopefully anyone using this facility will help in keeping it CLEAN. Brooms and cleaning supplies will be stationed there for your use. The interior paint colors were matched as close as possible to what existed during Beulah Alberty's occupation. As a reminder, we ask that you please make sure to turn off all lights upon exiting the house.



Completed interior of Alberty House

Museum Rehab

Work began on the Museum Building the week of May 12. The dry wall and insulation up two feet from the floor are being replaced. Also, the carpet is being replaced as well as the walls are being painted. Furthermore, a new cooling system is being installed in the Server Room. The Museum building was flooded during Tropical Storm Tammy in 2005



A hallway in the Museum building is prepared for drywall work.

and this work will repair the damage from that storm. The anticipated completion date is June 2008. We regret the inconvenience this has caused those who have offices in this building.

Ruins Stabilization

Dungeness Ruins Stabilization Project is proceeding on schedule. Project completion should take place in late June. Thanks to all who have endured the mess and orange fences.



Dungeness Ruins stabilization nearing completion.

-David Casey
Facility Manager

